

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05353 091709Z

22

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 W

----- 061310

R 091400Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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DEPT FOR A/SY/FO PANAMA FOR RSS AND RMO

E. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR T.O. INCREASE OF MSG DETACHMENT

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTS MSG DETACHMENT BE INCREASED BY ONE TO TOTAL OF SEVEN (7) AND NCOIC. PROPOSED MSG REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH POST AT EMBASSY ANNEX. REQUEST ENDORSED BY AMBASSADOR, SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE, RSO AND COMPANY D RMO. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS MSG DETACHMENT BE INCREASED BY ONE MSG (PRESENT T.O. IS 6 MSG AND NCOIC). ADDITIONAL MARINE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A POST AT ANNEX. PROPOSED POST WILL BE OPERATIONAL FROM 0730 UNTIL 1700 HOURS, MONDAY-FRIDAY, AND BE LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR OF BUILDING. MAIN FUNCTION WILL BE TO PROVIDE ACCESS CONTROL, INCLUDING PACKAGE AND BRIEFCASE INSPECTION, FOR IMMIGRANT VISA SECTION. ESTABLISHMENT OF POST ALSO CONSIDERED EXTREMELY NECESSARY SO THAT ADEQUATE PROTECTION MAY BE PROVIDED FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND SENSITIVE VISA EQUIPMENT STORED IN ANNEX AS WELL AS PROVIDING SECURITY FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED THERE. THIS IS MAJOR CONCERN AS ANNEX HOUSES APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF MISSION STAFF (10 AMERICANS; 30 FSLE'S) AND IS CONSIDERED BY LOCAL USAGE TO BE FOCAL POINT OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN JAMAICA. THEREFORE ANNEX IS PROBABLE TARGET OF

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ANY VIOLENCE THAT MAY BE DIRECTED AGAINST MISSION

FACILITIES. AS AN EXAMPLE, ANNEX SCENE OF ROCK-THROWING DEMONSTRATION IN JAN 1976 DURING WHICH ONE FSLE WAS INJURED. ANOTHER INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING OCTOBER REQUIRING USE OF MACE BY LOCAL POLICE TO QUELL DISTURBANCE. RECURRENCES OF SUCH ACTIVITY, OR WORSE, ARE A REAL POSSIBILITY GIVEN POLITICALLY UNSTABLE SITUATION THAT PRESENTLY EXISTS IN JAMAICA. POLICE PROVIDED BY GOJ ARE MARGINALLY USEFUL FOR CROWD CONTROL PURPOSES; THEY CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO PROVIDE INTERIOR ACCESS CONTROL NECESSARY TO INSURE SAFETY OF ANNEX PERSONNEL.

3. SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS NOTED IN KINGSTON A-96, SECURITY SURVEY, VISA OFFICE, KINGSTON, JAMAICA, WILL PERMIT A SINGLE MARINE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE ACCESS CONTROL FOR BUILDING EVEN THOUGH PROPOSED POST IS ON SECOND FLOOR. THESE IMPROVEMENTS, ALONG WITH OTHER MEASURES CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN, WILL PROVIDE REQUIRED PROTECTION THAT WILL ENABLE MSG TO PERFORM DUTIES SAFELY.

4. COMFORTABLE LIVING QUARTERS AVAILABLE AND POST IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE AND ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL MSG.

5. GUARD COVERAGE FOR MISSION WITH ADDITIONAL MSG POST WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

WEEKLY HOURS----- DUTY

168 CHANCERY

47.5 ANNEX

4 CHAR ESCORT AT ANNEX ON SATURDAYS

14.1 1/9 FACTOR

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE TIME, PER MAN, REQUIRED TO "RIDE SHOTGUN" WHEN POSTING RELIEFS AND/OR WHEN LOCAL SITUATION WARRANTS DOUBLING OF MSG ON DUTY (WHICH OCCURS FREQUENTLY).

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6. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY AMBASSADOR AND SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE; BOTH CONCUR THREAT DESCRIBED ABOVE EXISTS AND ENDORSE THIS REQUEST. DURING RECENT SEMI-ANNUAL INSPECTION, MAJOR RAY, RMO, COMPANY D, ALSO AGREED NEED FOR INCREASE EXISTED AND ADVISED THAT POST SHOULD PURSUE THIS REQUEST.
GERARD

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Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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